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Sen. Stamas' bill to protect charitable fire departments signed into law

LANSING – The governor today signed legislation, sponsored by Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, allowing fire departments to donate surplus equipment to fire departments in need without fearing liability.

“This is tremendous,” Stamas said. “This new law will encourage more fire departments across the state to donate equipment to less fortunate departments.”

Stamas' legislation will release the donating party from liability for damages for personal injury, death or property damage, while providing standards prohibiting gross negligence or intentional misconduct by the donors.

Beaver Creek Fire Chief Ed Holtcamp, the past president and legislative liaison for the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association and the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, previously testified before the Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs in support of Senate Bill 689.

“Public safety is a top priority and this new law will allow fire departments across the state to help each other out,” Stamas said. “I’m proud to have sponsored such an important piece of legislation and I’m even more thrilled that it was signed into law.”

Stamas' bill is now Public Act 244 of 2006.

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Editor's note: A photo of Sen. Stamas and Beaver Creek Fire Chief Ed Holtcamp testifying can be found on the Senate Majority Photowire at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Stamas/Stamas.htm>